

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (canceled)

1 2. (currently amended) The method according to claim
2 [[1]] 23 ~~, characterized in that~~ wherein the material web is formed
3 as woven fabric at least partly avoiding yarn formation from unspun
4 metal fibers and such a material web is exposed to this
5 hydrodynamic needling for finishing.

3. (canceled)

1 4. (currently amended) The method according to claim
2 [[1]] 23 ~~, characterized in that~~ wherein textile fibers are mixed
3 in the material web of metal fibers or filaments and both are
4 together exposed to the hydrodynamic needling for stitch bonding or
5 finishing.

1 5. (currently amended) The method according to claim
2 [[1]] 23 ~~, characterized in that~~ wherein the material web consists
3 of 100% metal fibers or filaments and such a material web is
4 exposed to the hydrodynamic needling for stitch bonding or
5 finishing.

1 6. (currently amended) The method according to claim
2 [[1]] 23 ~~, characterized in that~~ wherein the hydrodynamic needling
3 is carried out at a pressure >200 bar.

7. (canceled)

1 8. (currently amended) The method according to claim
2 [[1]] 23 ~~, characterized in that~~ wherein metal fiber nonwovens with
3 woven fabrics, knit fabrics, knitted fabrics, stitch-bonded
4 materials, ~~stitch-bonded nonwovens, needle-punched nonwovens etc.~~
5 consisting of 100% metal fibers but also of combinations of metal
6 fibers and textile fibers are combined to form composites by means
7 of hydrodynamic needling.

1 9. (currently amended) The method according to claim
2 [[1]] 23 ~~, characterized in that~~ wherein the water jet stitch
3 bonding is followed by a pressing and/or calibration process.

10 - 22. (canceled).

1 23. (new) A method of making a material web comprising
2 the step of:
3 providing a knitted or woven fabric at least partially
4 formed of spun yarns of metal fibers or metal filaments and
5 thereafter

6 hydrodynamically needling the fabric with high-pressure
7 water jets to finish the fabric.

1 24. (new) The method defined in claim 23 wherein the
2 jets have a pressure greater than 200 bar.